

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 SS-15 STR-04
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01
/084 W

-----190258Z 000582 /61

R 180507Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, JA

SUBJECT: DG LONG'S TOKYO VISIT

REF: GENEVA 1891

1. WE TALKED WITH MATSUDA WHO HANDLES GATT AFFAIRS IN FOREIGN OFFICE CONCERNING D G LONG'S VISIT TO TOKYO LAST WEEK. READING FROM NOTES HE TOOK DURING LONG'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA, MATSUDA SAID LONG WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY POSITIVE ATTITUDE HE ENCOUNTERED AMONG U.S. OFFICIALS DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT IN JAN AND NOTED THAT NEW ADMINISTRATION APPEARS TO BE FLEXIBLE ON A NUMBER OF (UNSPECIFIED) ISSUES. LONG SAID THE TOKYO ROUND HAS NOW ENTERED INTO ITS DECISIVE PHASE. NOTING THE NEED FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP, HE MADE A STRONG PITCH FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO EMPHASIZE AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCLUDING AN EARLY SUBSTANTIVE AGREEMENT. LONG ALSO COMPLAINED THAT JAPANESE DEL AT GENEVA HAS BEEN TOO CAUTIOUS, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND
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THE FRAMEWORK GROUP.

2. MATSUDA SAID THE PM RESPONDED THAT JAPAN IS FULLY AWARE OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY AND FAVORS CONCLUDING AN AGREEMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE PM OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE TWO VIEWS ON HOW TO PROCEED: (A) PUSH FOR AN AGREEMENT THIS YEAR WITH AS MUCH SUBSTANCE

AS POSSIBLE; OR (B) CONCENTRATE ON ACHIEVING
A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WITHOUT REGARD TO A TIME
LIMIT. JAPAN, HE SAID, INCLINES TOWARD THE LATTER
APPROACH. LONG REPLIED THAT PROVIDED THERE WERE
SUFFICIENT SUBSTANCE, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE AGREEMENT
REACHED THIS YEAR. IN REPLY TO THE PM'S QUESTION
HE CONFIRMED THAT HE DOES NOT FAVOR A MINI-PACKAGE.

3. LONG ALSO APPEALED TO JAPAN TO UNDERSTAND THAT
ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WITHIN THE EC DIFFER FROM
COUNTRY TO COUNTRY AND WARNED THAT STRUCTURAL
PROBLEMS IN SOME OF THE LARGER COUNTRIES IS MAKING
IT DIFFICULT TO PROMOTE THE TOKYO ROUND. (MATSUDA
NOTED WRYLY THAT LONG HAD VISITED BRUSSELS JUST
BEFORE COMING TO TOKYO.)

4. MATSUDA SAID THE PM AND LONG DID NOT DISCUSS
AGRICULTURE, BUT JAPAN'S POLICY REMAINS UNCHANGED.

5. COMMENT: OUR READING IS THAT LONG'S HOPES FOR
A MORE DYNAMIC JAPANESE ROLE IN THE MTN ARE OVERLY
OPTIMISTIC. MATSUDA FLATLY STATED THAT THE PM
HAD MADE NO COMMITMENT. WE ASSUME THE MTN WILL
BE DISCUSSED AT THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT, BUT WE HAVE
NO REASON TO THINK JAPAN WILL SINGLE IT OUT FOR
AN INITIATIVE ON ITS PART. AFTER THE SUMMIT
FUKUDA WILL BE PREOCCUPIED WITH UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS.
BUTTON

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Message Attributes

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